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(54) **LASER-POWERED PROPULSION SYSTEM**

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USPC 60/200.1, 202, 203.1
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A propulsion apparatus includes a propellant, at least one laser, and a thrust member. The propellant includes a solid surface having a hollow core disposed within the solid surface and a thrust-producing medium disposed within the hollow core. The at least one laser is positioned to vaporize the propellant with at least one laser-beam into a thrust-producing flow. The thrust member is for flowing within the thrust member a thrust-producing flow created by vaporization of the propellant.

29 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

